

Briefing conducted by Colonel Gary Hackett, 380th AEW.

11:00, 1st November, 2011.

## Media

<https://youtu.be/k9o-JeB9Ffk>

## Situation

Following a devastating 24 hours of air attacks behind Iranian lines coalition forces have secured their foothold in Iran. With positions now secure, all flanks cleared, and with the flow of heavy equipment to the front line continuing, US and UK forces are now commencing a rapid thrust into the heart of Iran. The attack will be led by the UK's 12th Armoured Infantry Brigade and the US 2nd Cavalry Regiment. Support will be provided by the AH-64's of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade as well as all available fast air. The objective of this attack is the capture of the city of Jiroft and it's adjacent airfield. The attack will take place through the Halil river valley, to the south of Jiroft. Although some Iranian armoured formations remain with this area, resistance is anticipated to be light.



## Situation





## Situation



Jiroft is situated at the north end of the Halil valley, with the airport 2.5 miles northwest of the city. The city and airport lie protected behind the Halil River, with bridges linking the valley to the city on the southern and southeastern approaches.



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## SPINS

Command and Control:

Local ATC will be responsible for all airspace control within 10nm of their respective airfields.

UAE airspace is currently closed to almost all civilian traffic and all airspace movement in the UAE / Gulf region will be controlled from E-3 platforms under the callsign **Overlord**.

Once handed off by ATC, coalition aircraft must report to Overlord who to ensure aircraft deconfliction will assign altitude blocks in high traffic areas.

Airborne radar coverage will be provided by a combination of E-3 and E-2 flights, the SA picture will be coordinated through the airborne command post and communicated via callsign **Darkstar**.

Upon entering the battlespace strike aircraft will be handed off from Overlord to the Air Support Operations Centre (ASOC), callsign **Whiplash**.

Whiplash will have final GO/NO GO authority on all strike missions and will also collate and prioritise requests for air support, assigning strikers to JTAC's when required.

All communications channels should be monitored as listed in the mission briefing at all times.



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## SPINS

Rules of Engagement.

### Aircraft Classifications

**Bandit** - Aircraft identified as belonging to a hostile force.

**Bogey** - Unidentified aircraft.

**Friendly** - Aircraft identified as belonging to a friendly force.

**Unknown** - An unknown aircraft, presumed friendly.

### Hostile Intent

Hostile Act considered if unit:

- Engages friendly forces with a weapons system.

OR

- Supports the weapons systems of other units, resulting in weapons release. Including but not limited to lasing, marking, radar illumination of targets.

Hostile Act considered if unit meets **all** the conditions below:

- Spikes/spots/marks a friendly target within their weapons range or the range of a supporting unit.
- Persistently maneuvers to maintain a weapons firing solution or to maintain solution for fire support.
- PosID as a bandit or belonging to a hostile force.

Hostile Act considered if unit meets **all** the conditions below:

- Moves in an aggressive manner towards friendly forces.
- Actively deploys countermeasures and/or seeks to avoid detection.
- PosID as a bandit or belonging to a hostile force.



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## SPINS

### Rules of Engagement.

Hostile Act considered if unit meets **any** of the conditions below:

(note these conditions may often apply to individuals that are civilian in appearance)

- Observed preparation of an ambush position, including but not limited to the positioning of weapons systems, explosives or significant obstructions in tactically advantageous positions.
- PosID as engaging in the command and control of hostile forces.
- Observed in the use, transportation or maintenance of weapons systems that pose a threat to coalition forces within a contested battlespace.

Upon confirmation of a hostile act, aircrew are cleared to engage and act in self defence or the defence of friendly forces.

### Predefined targets

Targets defined within a briefing are pre-cleared for engagement providing the briefed details are followed. In these conditions visual ID will not be required.

### Dynamic Targets

Targets may be assigned to aircrew via ASOC or JTAC in the field.

Weapons release authority will be under the control of the JTAC/AFAC at all times. The only exception to this is if contact with JTAC/AFAC is lost and that in the defence of friendly forces the conditions for hostile intent can be met.

### Surrendered Forces

The surrender of all forces must be observed and engagement ceased immediately.

If soldiers abandon a vehicle and move away from the battlefield in a manner consistent with surrender they must be allowed to escape to a safe distance before engaging the vehicle. Surrender should be distinguished from retreat, surrender is defined as the abandonment of all weapons/ weapons systems and overt actions such as white flags, raised hands.



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## SPINS

Control of Air Support.

Air support requests (ASR) will commonly be made through the ground commander CAS to the air support operations center (ASOC).

The ASOC will process the ASR and match to available CAS platforms. ASOC will direct the CAS platform to the AO and connect them to the JTAC / AFAC.

The JTAC or AFAC will provide the targets details, locations of friendly forces or civilians and specify the attack details such as IP, attack direction, weapons to be employed and egress routes. The JTAC will also specify the type of control authority they will have over the attack, these are detailed as below:

### *Type 1*

JTAC requires control of individual attacks and must visually acquire the attacking aircraft and the target for each attack. Targets and friendly positions should be marked whenever possible.

Visual acquisition must be obtained through eyes-on or via optics such as binoculars, without the use of third party devices such as laptops or other digital imagery.

Control will be made over the attack direction of the aircraft to reduce the risk of collateral damage or the attack affecting friendly forces.

### *Type 2*

JTAC requires control of individual attacks but JTAC is unable to visually acquire the attacking aircraft at weapons, unable to visually acquire the target, or the attacking aircraft is unable to acquire the mark/target prior to weapons release.

JTAC can acquire the target visually or use targeting data from a scout, fire support team, joint fires observer, unmanned aircraft (UA), special operations forces, CAS aircrew, or other asset with accurate real-time targeting information.



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## SPINS

Control of Air Support.

### *Type 3*

JTAC provides clearance for multiple attacks within a single engagement subject to specific attack restrictions.

JTAC does not need to visually acquire the aircraft or the target.

JTAC will provide attacking aircraft with targeting restrictions and then grant blanket weapons release clearance to meet the stated restrictions.

JTAC maintains abort authority.

### *9 Lines*

The JTAC will commonly provide the CAS platform with a 9 line specifying the instructions for the attack. The 9 line format is as follows.

1. Initial point (IP)
2. Heading from the IP to the target.
3. Distance from the IP to the target in nautical miles.
4. Target elevation in feet above mean sea level.
5. Target description.
6. Target location coordinates.
7. Type of mark.
8. Location of friendlies from the target, direction, and distance in meters.
9. Egress direction.





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## SPINS

### *Terminology*

The JTAC and air support platform will communicate using set terminology. This terminology is detailed here.

*Cleared hot* - air support is cleared to engage the target.

*Winter* - this is the predetermined abort code in theatre. If the JTAC issues code winter or calls abort then the attacking aircraft must safety weapons systems and maneuver off target.

*Contact* - refers to spotting visual references used to talk onto a target.

*Tally* - Visual confirmation by the pilot of the target.

*Visual*- Visual confirmation of friendly forces.

## Weather

Wind = 086 4kn @ GL, 237 7Kn @ 6600, 245 35Kn @26000.

Temp 27C.

Clouds 4/10 coverage, 6500 ft base, 6000 ft depth.

Cloud is expected to build during the afternoon to form a solid overcast into the evening.



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## Mission

### Mission Summary:

- Report to WP MARSHALL south of the Halil valley and provide CAS as requested for the assault on Jiroft.

### Mission Details

Gunman 2-1 will lead Gunman 2-2 (Ronnie) on a two-ship of A-10's to the Halil Valley.

Once airborne your flight will form at WP1 before following the assigned flight plan.

Check in with Overlord once feet dry over the Iranian mainland and then make contact with Whiplash prior to approaching the Halil Valley.

Once on station at WP MARSHALL await tasking from Whiplash.

Upon completion of all tasking or end of vul then proceed along the assigned flight plan and RTB to Khasab.

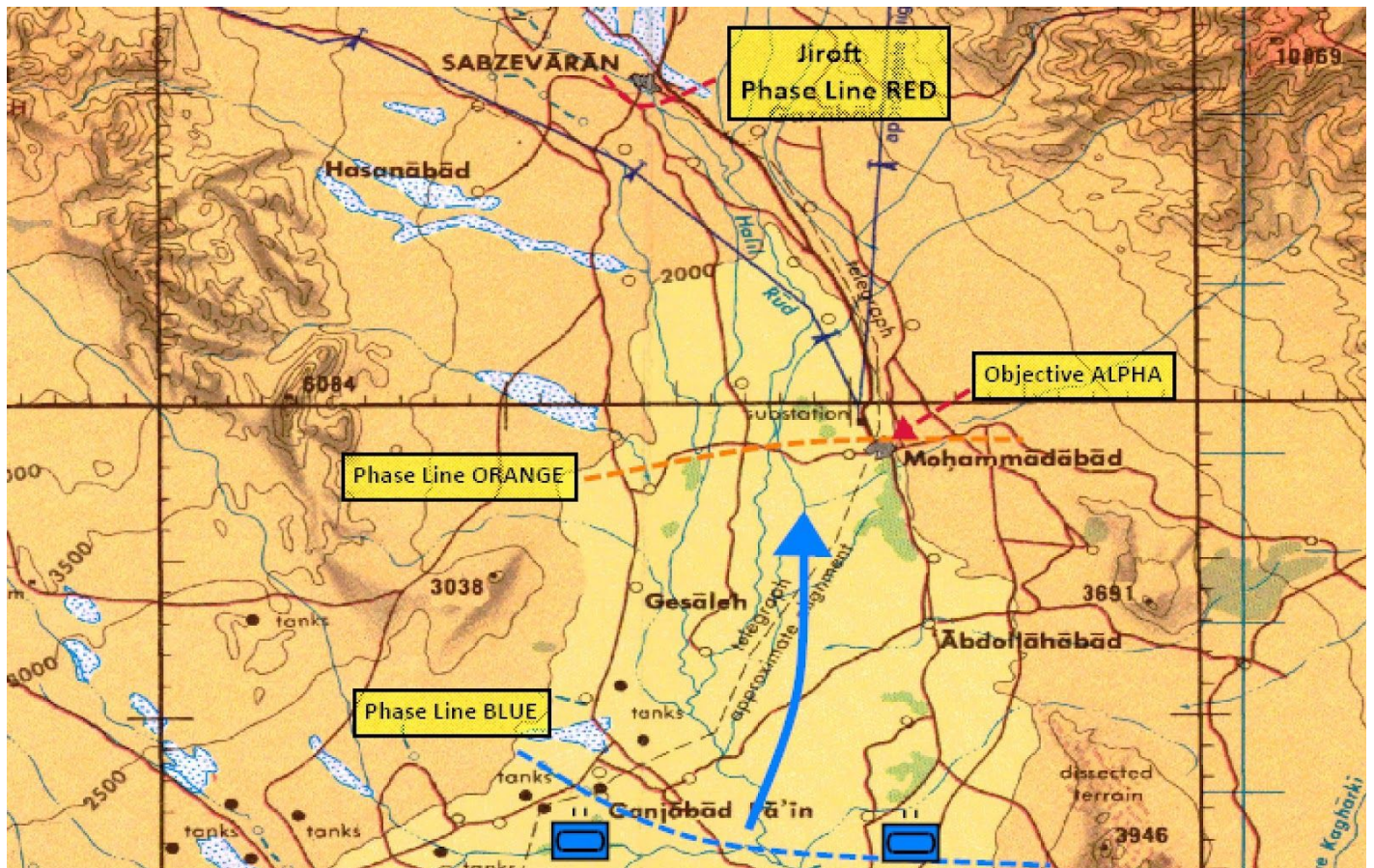
## Mission

### Mission Specifics

The operation in the Halil Valley is a strategically important step in the push north. By securing Jiroft we will not only secure another airfield further north but open up a corridor towards Kerman and from there give the coalition a clear route into the northwest of Iran and onto Tehran itself.

The Halil Valley is approximately 30nm in length (North to South) and 10-15nm wide, narrowing in the north towards Jiroft. US and UK armour and artillery will enter the south of the valley and begin their assault from Phase Line Blue. WP MARSHALL is located at Phase Line Blue.

The attack will begin by pushing 15nm north through the valley to Phase Line Orange, located on the east of Orange is objective Alpha - the town of Mohammadabad. Coalition forces will secure Alpha before continuing to push north towards Phase Line Red, located on the south of Jiroft.

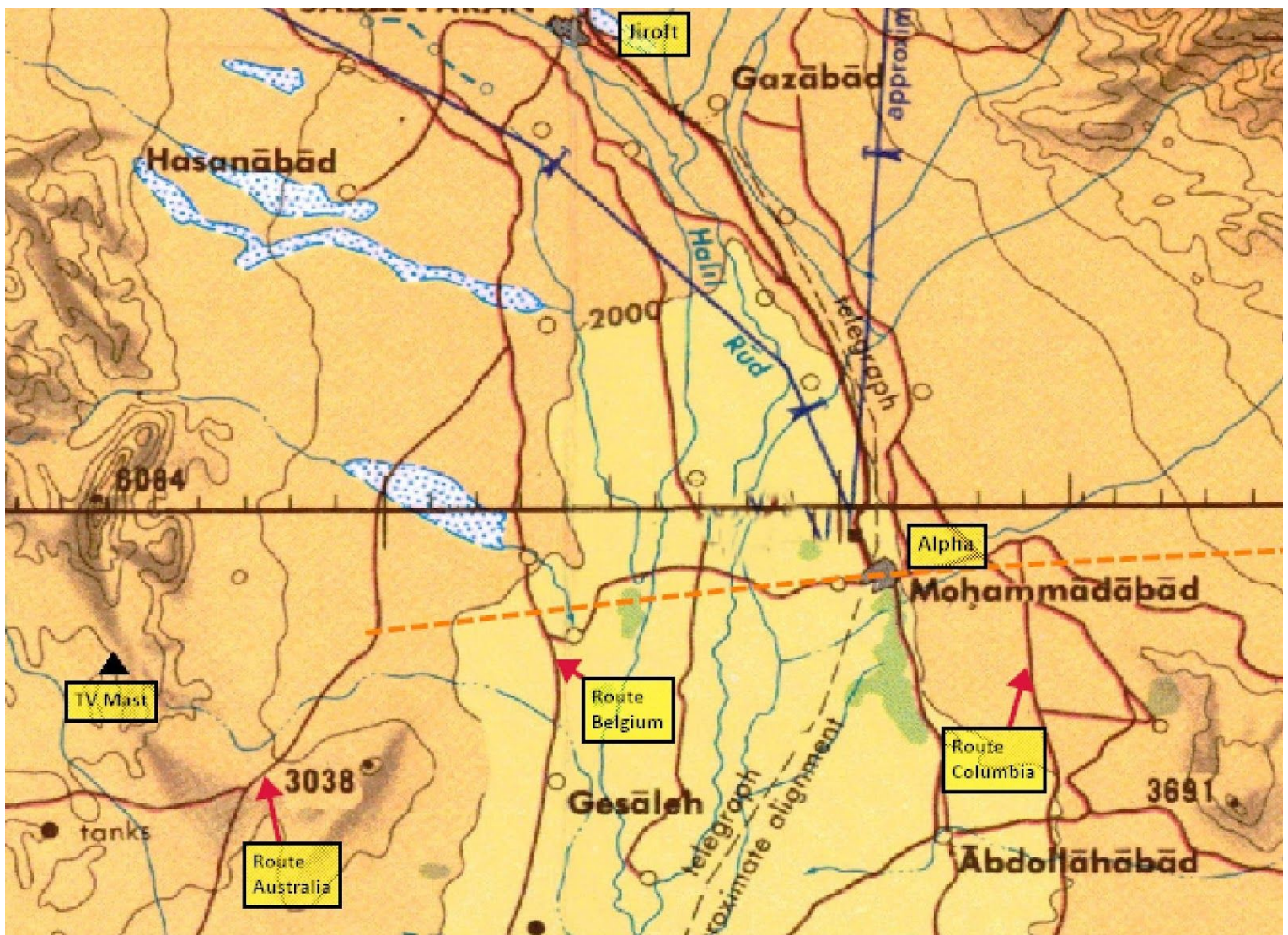




## Mission

Our forces will attack along three roads, Route Australia on the west of the valley, Route Belgium in the centre and Route Columbia in the east. Route Denmark is a link road between Columbia and Alpha.

The TV mast located on the western ridge line (40R ES56388 46601) will serve as a helpful landmark to anchor the western side of Orange with Alpha.





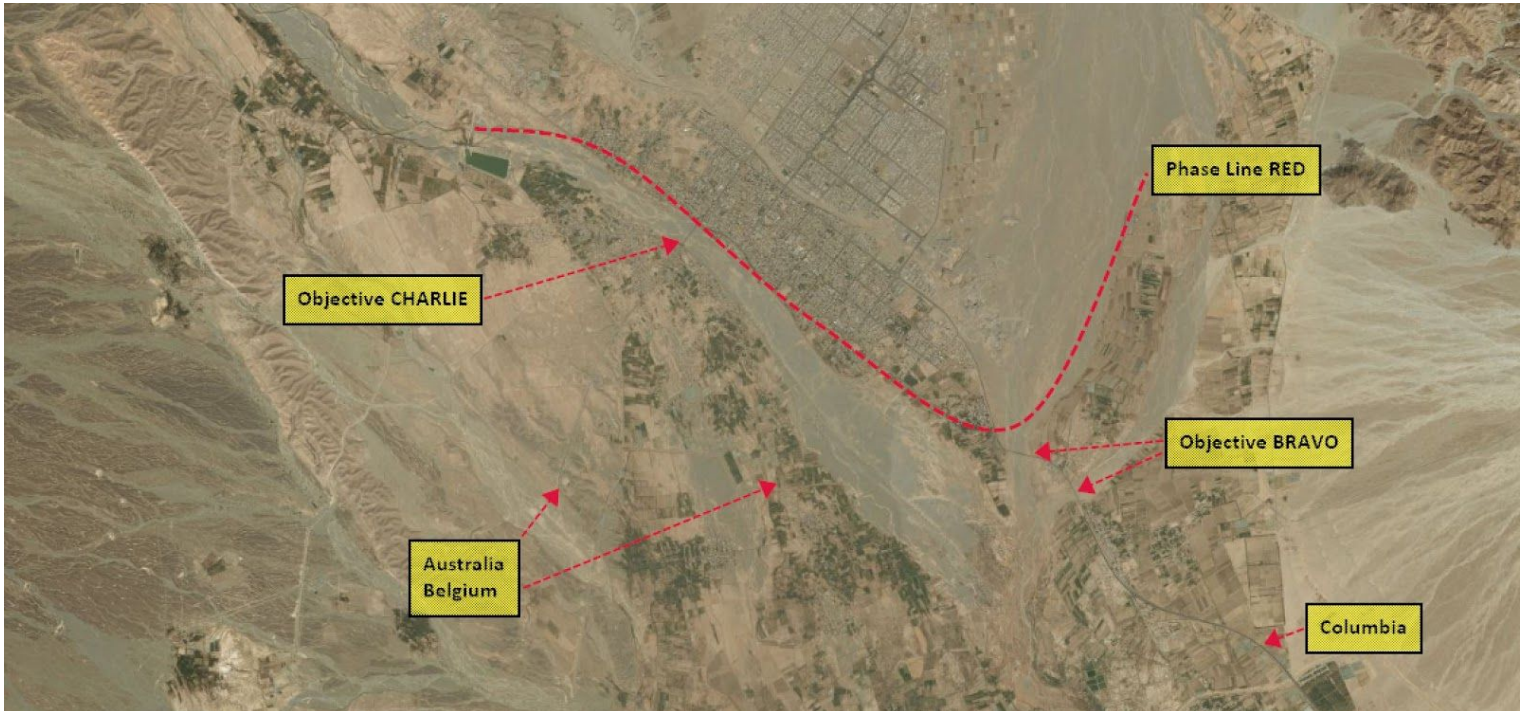
# Mission





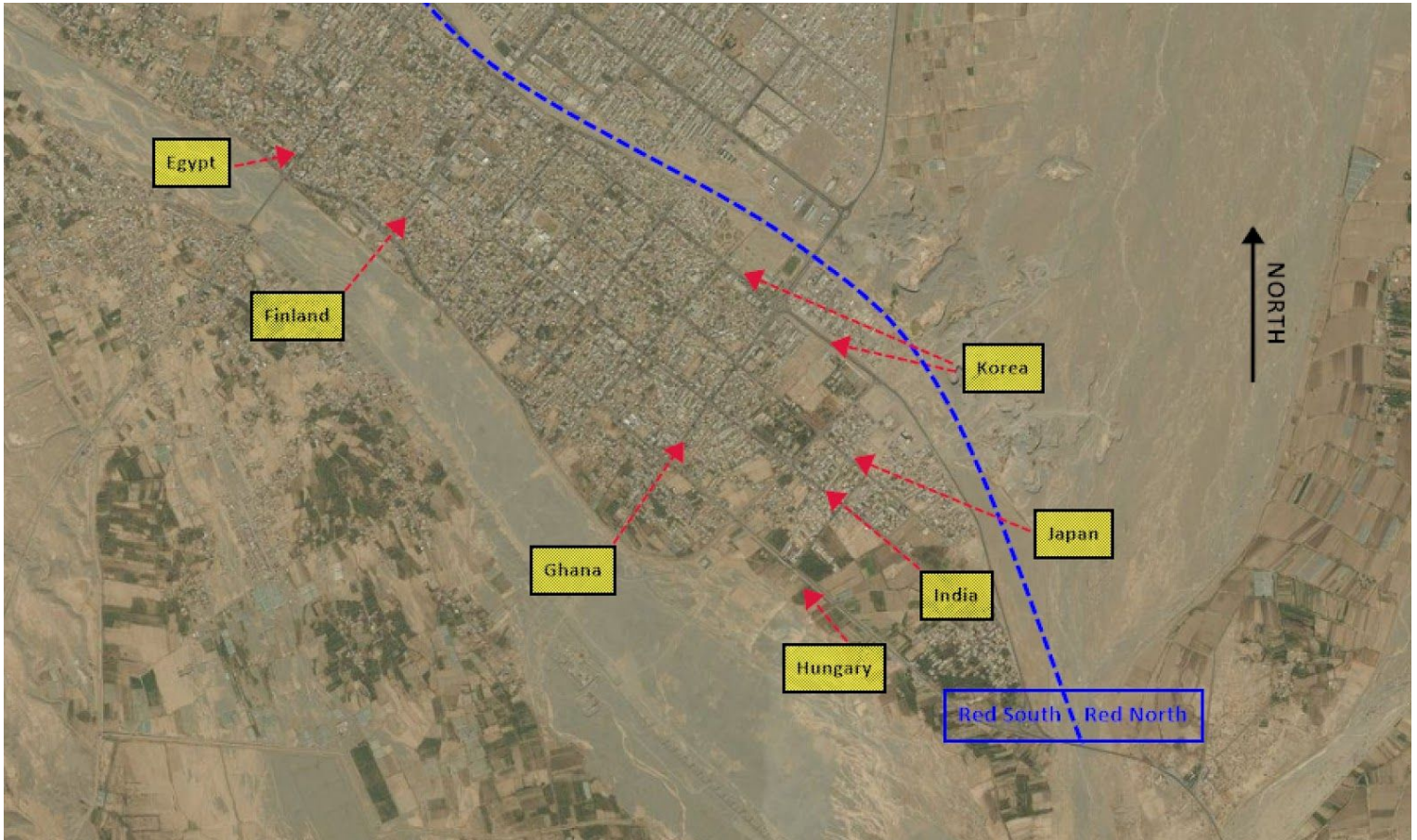
## Mission

Columbia terminates at Objective Bravo. Australia and Belgium merge at Phase Line Red and terminate at Objective Charlie, Bravo and Charlie are both bridges over the Halil river and key objectives.



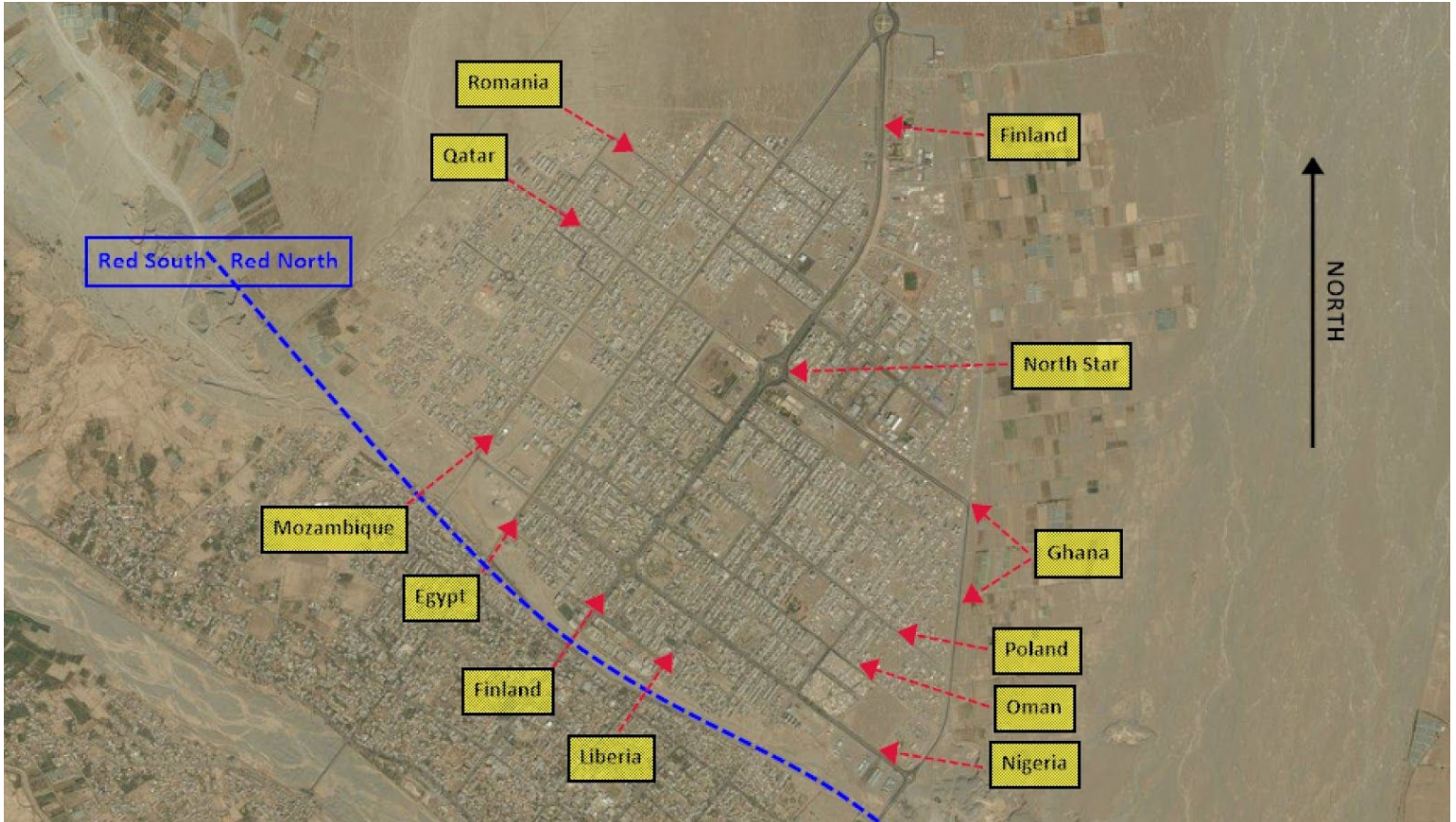
## Mission

Jiroft has been divided into two sectors, Red South and Red North, with all major streets and landmarks designated as in the maps below. All forces in the AO will reference these names when communicating.





## Mission



Upon securing Bravo and Charlie, our forces will move fast to secure Jiroft. Once in position at the northern and western edges of the city they will then commence an enveloping attack on the airport.

Jiroft airport is designated as objective Delta.



# Flight Plan

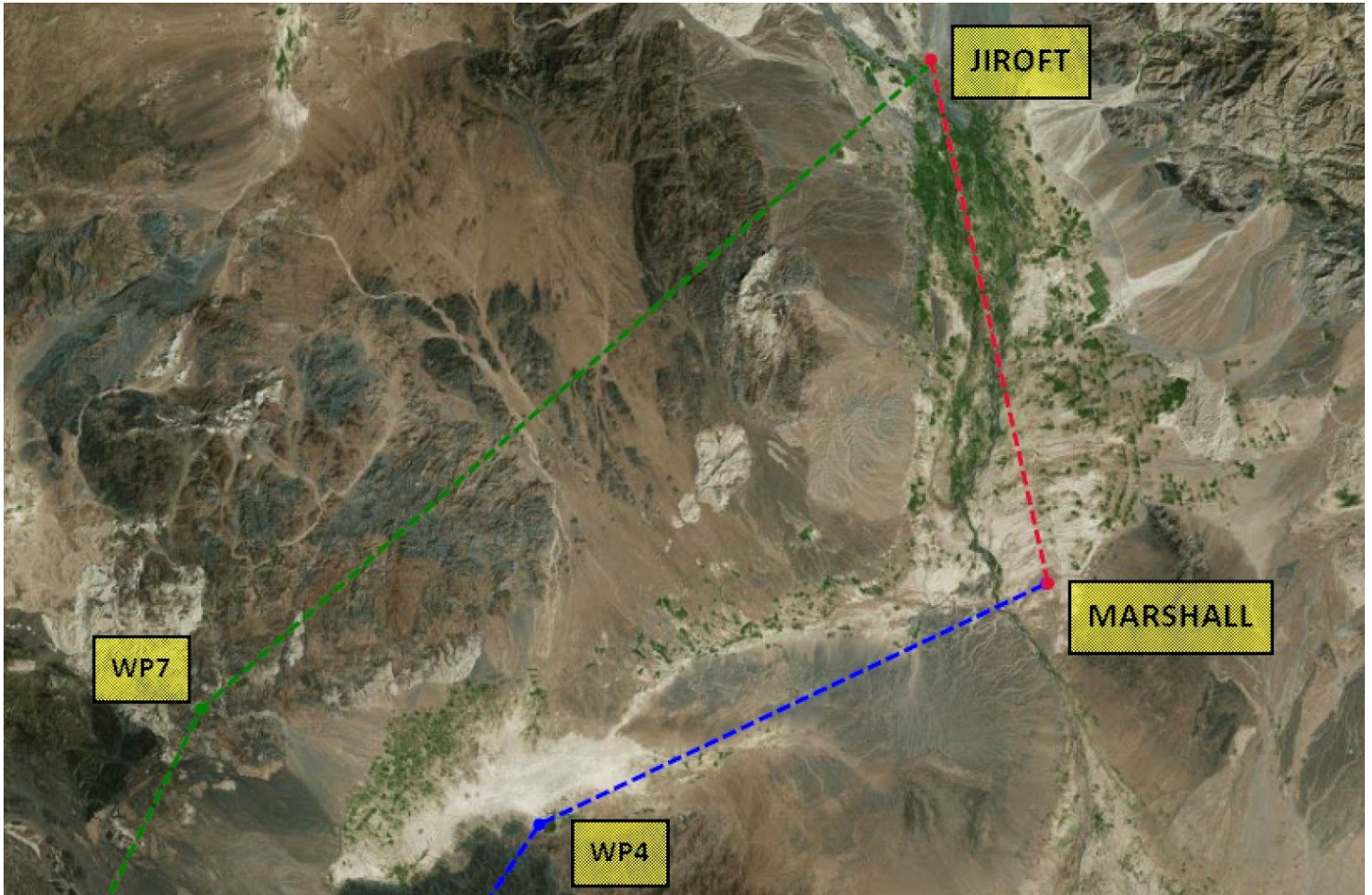
WP	Alt (k ft)	IAS (Kn)	Notes	WP	Alt (k ft)	IAS (Kn)	Notes
1	5	230		7	15	230	Egress
2	15	230	Check in Overlord FEET DRY	8	15	230	
3	15	230		9	15	230	
4	15	230		10	5	230	
5	15	230	MARSHALL	11			Land
6	15	230	Jiroft **SA-6**				

Joker Fuel 2000lb

Bingo Fuel 1500lb



# Flight Plan





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## Threats

Iran has used Jiroft airport to transport an SA-6 system into the area, the engagement range of this system extends to just north of Phase Line Orange.

As always the presence of mobile AAA and MANPAD/SA-9 Gaskin should be assumed and mitigated for, it is highly likely that such systems will be located in the vicinity of phase lines orange and red.